

[Henry Clark]

[?] Dup

Ragsdale, Katherine

11/9/56 cl-420 words. Pioneer

STORY. Henry Clark

Coming by ox cart from San Antonio, Texas, on their way to San Francisco, California, Henry Clarks' parents decided to stop in New Mexico for awhile. Their guide Yaqui Joe and his wife known to Henry as Aunt [Marti?] Anna wanted to go to Mexico. Henrys' parents told them that they could go—when they left Aunt Marti Anna took Henry (age 4) with them.

After crossing the Rio Grande they met a group of Mexicans and Indians going to the interior of Mexico for mahogany. Yaqui Joe decided to go with them, so Henry, Aunt Marta Anna and Yaqui Joe started on this long journey.

They had traveled several days when bandits over took them. These bandits made the younger men and women their prisoners and left the old men, women and small children (called drags) to die of starvation and thirst.

Aunt Marti Anna took it upon herself to lead these drags back to where there was food and shelter.

After traveling all day they [?] driven by two men, a train of burros carrying fruit. The drags captured these two men and tied them up, then the old men, women, and children started

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eating, after having eaten their fill they untied the two men and demanded that they guide them to a village. C18 - N. Mex.

After several days traveling they reached a small village where they remained for quite some time.

During this time Aunt Marti Anna taught Henry the ways of the Indians—he learned to graft certain cacti to make blue, black and red paint. He learned the signs the Indians use in pointing out trails, he learned how to hunt—oh, many things were taught him by this old 2 Indian woman.

At an early age (about 16) Henry met the Marauding Victorio, and joined his band of outlaws. This band consisted of 700 white men and three hundred Indians. Every man was needed by Victorio because he had a contract with a Cuban in the South of Leon to bring from 10,000 to 20,000 head of cattle a month to him.

These men would scatter from California to Texas and New Mexico stealing cattle.

“Many are the time [?] I have camped on top of Sitting Bull Falls (twenty miles south west of Lakewood) awaiting nightfall so I might go into the Seven Rivers country to steal cattle. One time after we had gotten several hundred head of cattle, we drove them as far as Sitting Bull Falls and here we camped on the top. About dawn we saw camping down below us a few cowboys — [Nigger?] Bill, two Indian bucks and I gave a wild ‘Whoop’ and I don't believe tho'se boys feet touched the ground good before they got on their horses and left out. No sir, tho'se men weren't lookin’ for Indians then”.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

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"I was 40 years old before I ever saw my mother, and I saw her for the first time in
Carlsbad, New Mexico